

Members

Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chairperson  
Rep. Paul Robertson  
Rep. Robert Cherry  
Rep. Dan Leonard  
Sen. Robert Jackman  
Sen. Greg Walker  
Sen. James Lewis  
Sen. Richard Young



## NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE

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Authority: IC 2-5-5-1

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### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** September 11, 2007  
**Meeting Time:** 1:00 P.M.  
**Meeting Place:** Falls of the Ohio State Park, Interpretive  
Center  
**Meeting City:** Clarksville, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 2

**Members Present:** Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chair; Rep. Paul Robertson; Rep. Robert Cherry; Rep. Dan Leonard; Sen. Robert Jackman; Sen. Greg Walker; Sen. James Lewis.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Richard Young.

**Call to Order.** Rep. Bischoff called the meeting to order.

**Fairfield Ramp at Brookville Lake.** Sen. Jackman asked for signs to be put up at the Fairfield ramp at Brookville Lake. The ramp has been the site of three fatalities—one in 1999, one in 2006, and one in 2007. John Davis, Deputy Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), discussed improvements that have been made at the ramp to warn or detour drivers.

Rep. Leonard expressed his concerns about the facilities at Roush Lake. Dan Bortner, DNR Director of State Parks and Reservoirs, indicated that some improvements had been made to the park. Mr. Davis indicated that the DNR would talk with the staff about perceived needs and let Rep. Leonard know. Mr. Davis also encouraged members to contact the DNR if they have concerns, and he would try to address the issues before the next meeting. Rep. Bischoff noted that the DNR has been responsive to committee members concerns.

**Retention and Recruitment of Hunting License Holders.** Jack Corpuz, Pheasants Forever, discussed the decline in the number of hunters. He proposed an apprentice license program which would provide youth and adults, prior to having obtained a hunting license and prior to

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

completing hunter education requirements, the ability to hunt with an adult mentor. (See Exhibit I.) Mr. Corpuz provided a map of the states that identified how restrictive states are relative to limitations placed on hunters (Exhibit II). He also provided a brochure about the apprentice license (Exhibit III) and a video of the program. Rob Carter, DNR Director, supported the program. Mike Crider, DNR Law Enforcement, suggested that there would be no extended liability as a result of the program. John Goss, Indiana Wildlife Federation, noted that local conservation clubs support the program. Randy Sholwalter, Wild Turkey Foundation, also supported the program. After discussion, Rep. Bischoff asked the staff of Legislative Services Agency to draft language that would provide for the program.

**Invasive Species.** Lynn Dennis, The Nature Conservancy, and Mr. Goss referred the committee to HCR 75, which encouraged the Legislative Council to refer to the committee the topic of the impact of invasive species. The resolution required the committee to establish a task force to study the economic and environmental impacts of invasive species.

**Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.** Jeff Papa, Indiana Historic Landmarks Foundation (HLF), provided an overview of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program (See Exhibit IV, V, and VI). The program limits the credit to \$100,000 per project. The total amount of credits for each year is limited to \$450,000. This annual cap has led to a backlog of applications. Projects certified this year may be eligible for the credit in 2018 or later. The statute does not require an accounting of the use of the credit. The Foundation will propose policy options at a later date. Mark Davis, HLF President, noted that the credit has spurred economic development and is a top priority of HLF. Bob Bates, developer of historical buildings, has worked with the program in several states and encouraged the establishment of a credit that can be used for smaller projects. Jim Glass, DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, stated that the credit needs to be tracked by the Department of Revenue. Dan Terrill, Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, indicated that his office would like to ensure that smaller rural communities receive a percentage of the credit. Ms. Dennis supported the credit program because it reuses existing lands and saves green spaces.

**Courthouse Preservation.** Mr. Papa discussed the need for a courthouse and public building preservation and maintenance program. Wayne Goodman proposed establishing an advisory commission to provide assistance to courthouse projects. (See Exhibit VII, VIII, and IX). Joe Jarzen, Indiana National Road Driving Tour Guide, provided the committee with exhibits that outline historic buildings in the surrounding areas and supported the establishment of the commission (See exhibits X, XI, XII, and XIII). Don Von DerMuelen, Franklin County Commissioner, wanted good communication between the state and counties. Mr. Glass stated that the DNR provided a limited number of grants (with a \$60,000 limit per grant) and helps local courthouses obtain a listing as an historic landmark. Greg Setula, HLF southern office, supported the creation of a commission. Kevin Cox, Randolph County, stated that his county could have used outside expertise in making local restoration decisions. Rep. Bischoff asked LSA to draft language establishing the commission.

**Falls of the Ohio Foundation.** Dani Cummins, Executive Director of the Falls of the Ohio Foundation, provided an overview of the Foundation, which is a nonprofit support group with a 20-member volunteer board (See Exhibit XIV, XV, and XVI). The Foundation helped raise money to build the Interpretive Center at the Falls of the Ohio. The Center is in need of expansion and remodeling. The Foundation has received private funds and hopes to access additional governmental funds. Diane Swank, President of the Foundation, introduced several board members as well as Steve Noll, Park Manager since 1996. The Falls was designated as a federal landmark in 1996. The committee viewed a 14-minute film that detailed the history of the Falls.

**Recessed.** The committee was recessed at approximately 5:00 p.m.

**Reconvene:** The committee reconvened on Wednesday, September 12, at approximately 9:00 a.m.

**Next meeting dates.** The next meeting date of the committee was scheduled for October 3 and 4 at Brown County State Park. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The final meeting of the committee will be held at the Garrison at Ft. Harrison State Park on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Topics for Next Meeting.** In addition to topics already scheduled for the next meeting, members requested reports on the following topics:

1. EHD in deer
2. Update on canned hunting
3. Multi-year licenses
4. Coyote population and the sale of coyotes for “training dogs”
5. Entry fees at state parks

**Adjournment.** Rep. Bischoff adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:45 a.m.